

TERM PAPER  
ON  
BAWDY LORE

1963 A.  
Austin, Texas  
(J.H.A. = July)  
Alfred?

This paper uses two men as its sources. Both men have lived for several years with relatively isolated groups of men. These men were interviewed twice and asked for any bawdy jokes, stories, or sayings which happened to be current within their respective groups. Too, they were asked for personal experience stories.

First Source: Mr. Joe Gates, 2814 Shoal Crest, Austin, Texas.

Mr. Gates moved all over the United States with his family. His father was a farmer, construction foreman, railroad engineer, and mechanic. Mr. Gates has one year at the University of Texas. He has spent two years in the United States Navy on Midway Island, during the Korean War. ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Shortly after his enlistment was up, he spent three years in Alaska working as a seaman, longshoreman, and, principally, as a construction worker on a highway deep in Alaska. He is in his early thirties.

Mr. Gates was first interviewed on the evening of January 10, 1963, at 2814 Shoal Crest, Austin, Texas. When the collecting began that evening, there were several men present for the event. Mr. Gates told the first stories. This prompted others present to tell their stories. This, in turn, prompted Mr. Gates and helped him to remember more stories. Before the evening was very old, there was a genuine "dirty" joke session under way, in which all the participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mr. Gates was interviewed the second time on January 11, 1963, at 2814 Shoal Crest, Austin, Texas. This time there were no others present, and there was no tape recorder. Mr. Gates told several more stories on this occasion.

Second Source: Mr. Louis Alfred Gray, 2911 Beanna, Austin, Texas.

Mr. Gray was born on a farm in Kansas. He lived all over the

United States as a boy, because his father was a traveling salesman. After leaving home, he entered communications, in which he has been since. He is, presently, a Merchant Marine Radio Officer, having been in sixty-five countries and possessions. He is in his middle fifties.

Mr. Gray was first interviewed on the afternoon of January 11, 1963, at 2911 Beanna, Austin, Texas. There were three men present for the collecting session, but Mr. Gray could not seem to recall very many stories. Arrangements were made for another collecting session.

During the second session, on January 15, 1963, at 2911 Beanna, Austin, Texas, Mr. Gray remembered quite a few more stories. He enjoyed himself very much. This is when most of the material from him was collected.

After the tape recorder had been put away, Mr. Gray remembered more stories, and he started again. These I collected by hand and have listed at the end of his material.

In the collectanea, the lore from both men is listed as it comes on the tapes. Untaped lore follows taped lore in the collectanea.

All of the lore is classified as follows, with the numbers of the selections in that classification:

	Joe Gates	Louis Alfred Gray
A. Homosexual	2, 3, 4, 16, 17	none
B. Sexual overtones	1, 7, 8, 23, 25, 29, 32	2, 4, 25
C. More sexually implicated	9, 10, 14, 21, 28, 31	1, 6, 7, 9, 18, 24
D. Direct sexual situation	11, 12, 13, 19	13, 14, 17, 21, 23
E. Phrases and definitions	5, 26	none
F. Trickster	15, 24	5
G. Slam	6	none
H. Body processes nonsexual	18, 22	3, 11, 12, 19, 20, 22, 26, 27
I. Body processes sexual	27	8

	Joe Gates	Louis Alfred Gray	JNA 3
J. Personal history stories	29,30,31,32	15,16,19	
K. Other	none	10	
L. Scorn for social values	2,5,17,18,28,29	1,2,3,4,9,16,18,19,20,27	
M. Play on words	10,11,12,21,23,24	14,17	

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Sexual	27 out of 32	Sexual	15 out of 27
Nonsexual	4 out of 32	Nonsexual	12 out of 27
Scorn	6 out of 32	Scorn	10 out of 27

Mr. Gates gave thirty-two selections. All but five of these were sexually oriented. Mr. Gray gave twenty-seven selections. Only fifteen of these were sexually oriented. It is entirely possible that the difference in ages of the informants has a great deal to do with this difference. Mr. Gates is twenty years younger than Mr. Gray. This, also, could point to the difference between the groups from which these men come. Mr. Gates, as a seaman in the United States Navy, worked largely with young men, like himself, being in for one enlistment. As a highway construction worker in Alaska his working companions were necessarily younger men who could take the severities of both climate and construction work.

Young men are naturally more sexually active than older men. When confined for long periods of time at work without women, younger men will find their conversations dominated by talk of sexually oriented matters. Older men will not find this situation as acute.

Mr. Gray as an older man, and as a Merchant Marine Officer, associates with older men. Since older men are less sexually active than younger men, their conversations are less dominated with sex.

Mr. Gray, as a representative of the older group, gave almost half as many sexually oriented stories as did Mr. Gates (Gray 15, Gates 27). But, Mr. Gray gave three times as many nonsexual stories as did Mr. Gates (Gray 12, Gates 4).

In the area of scorn for social values, Mr. Gray gave ten<sup>JHA 4</sup> selections, while Mr. Gates gave only six. If this has any significance, it must lie in the fact that Mr. Gray has been going to sea for years. Each ship is a law unto itself. Seamen have made a life of living differently than the rest of the world. Perhaps, scorn helps them to reassure themselves that they can continue to live the way they do.

However, Mr. Gates worked with men who were not making a career of the jobs they held. They were isolated from society, but they were planning to return and make their lives there. This is possibly the reason Mr. Gates gave so few selections expressing scorn for society and its values.

These were collected from Mr. Joe Gates on January 10, 1963

1.(B) A poor farmer scraped and saved to send his daughter off to college. She stayed away four years, because he was too poor to have her traveling back and forth. Finally, after graduation, when she was due back on the train, the farmer drove his wagon to the station to meet her. On the way home, she said, "Paw, I've got a confession to make. I ain't a virgin no more." The old farmer looked dejected, and she said, "Well, Paw, some of them college boys sure can talk." He answered, "It's not that. Here, I spend all that money to send you away to school; and you still say, 'ain't'."

2.(A)(L) At the end of boot camp, the top sergeant had all the recruits lined up. He said, "Attention!" All snapped to, except one, who left his stomach hanging out, just like when he was a civilian.

Sergeant: "Hey, you! Suck that gut up!"

(Nothing happened)

Sergeant: "What's the matter, you pregnant?"

Recruit: "I wouldn't be surprised. I ain't been nothing but f \_ \_ \_ \_ d since I've been in this outfit."

3.(A) When they run recruits through medical checks, there is a doctor for each test. One recruit came up to a doctor, who had a small mustache.

Doctor: "O.K., skin it back."

Recruit: "Grin, and it will skin itself back."

Doctor: "Release this man. He's morally unfit for military service."

4.(A) The recruits were going into the service and the sergeant was filling out the forms to decide where would be the best spot for each man in military life. He wanted to correlate their military jobs with their civilian jobs.

First man: I'm a coke sacker. I work in a place where they mine coal to make coke and I sack it up.

Second man: "I'm a sock tucker. I pull yarn in the machine to make socks."

Third man: "I'm a cork smacker. I work in a wine bottling factory and I smack the cork into the wine bottle."

Fourth man: (High voice) "Well, I'm the real McCoy."

5.(E)(L) Phrases used by military men to express mistreatment:

Rammed by the rigid rod of retribution.

Dicked by the dawn of destiny.

F \_ \_ \_ \_ d by the fickle finger of fate.

6.(G) The little boy was sent home from school. His mother asked him why he was sent home.

Boy: Well, the teacher asked what our Daddy's did. And I said mine played the piano in a whore house.

Mother: Why in the world did you say that??

Boy: You didn't want me to tell her what he really is? That he's a second lieutenant in the Army.

7.(B) Two colored porters worked on trains that always passed each other heading in opposite directions. When one train was heading for New Orleans, the other was bound for Chicago. For years the two porters had waved at each other as their trains passed. Then one day the trains were side railed and the porters got to talking.

Porter 1: Where does you live, Chicago?

Porter 2: Naw, I lives in New Orleans.

Porter 1: You does? Why ain't that a coincidence, I does too. Where 'bouts in New Orleans?

Porter 2: On Front Street.

Porter 1: Me, too. What block?

Porter 2: Fourteen hunred.

Porter 1: Me too, What apartment?

Porter 2: 3-B

Porter 1: Say, I thinks we must be husbands-in-law.

8(B) Rastus heard that there was going to be a galloping domino (dice) game that afternoon, and he wanted to go. So, he asked his boss if he could get off from work and go home, because he was sick. The boss agreed, because Rastus was a conscientious worker.

At the game, Rastus soon ran out of money. But, he knew he had to get lucky before too long. So he decided to go home and take some money out of Liza's purse, while she was asleep, and replace it before she woke up.

When he stepped into the house, a board creaked; and Liza said, "Who dat?" Rastus thought that he had better get out before he got caught, and the board creaked again. Liza said, "Who dat?", followed by a deep voice saying, "Who dat?" Rastus said, "What I wanta know is, who say dat second, 'Who dat?'"

9.(C) Rastus had Liza out for a car ride, when the car overturned. Rastus said, "Liza, is yo' hurt?"

Liza: "Yes, Rastus. Ise split from my a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ e to my navel."

Rastus: "I know, Liza. But, is yo' hurt?"

10.(C)(M) Rastus wanted to have his name changed, because "Rastus" was always the fall guy in a joke. Rastus told this to the judge; and the judge agreed that it was a good reason, granting the permission. When the judge asked what new name Rastus wanted, Rastus hummed and hawed. He had never given this part of the question any thought. The judge requested that Rastus hurry and make up his mind, because the court was busy. Finally, Rastus decided that since he liked candy, he would have his name changed to Candy.

After he was legally "Candy", He went to a telephone and called his girl.

Candy: Liza, guess what, I done had my name changed. Guess what it is.

Liza: Give me a hint.

Candy: Well, you is had it in your hand, and in your mouth, and in your belly.

Liza: Well, Peter Jones, how are you?

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11.(D)(M) Johnny came to his mother and said: "Mother, are light globes good to eat?"

Mother: No, Johnny.

Johnny: I'll bet they are.

Mother: They're not.

Johnny: Oh, I don't mean when they're burning, I mean when they're out.

Mother: That doesn't have anything to do with it.

Johnny: Yes it does.

Mother: Why?

Johnny: The other night I heard Daddy tell the maid that if she'd turn that light out, he'd eat it.

12.(D)(M) A mother was leaving home for a short trip, and she asked her boy to tell her anything unusual that happened while she was gone. When she returned she asked him if anything had happened, and he said, "Well, one thing did happen. The cat got drunk.

Mother: The cat got drunk?

Boy: Yes'm, I heard Daddy tell the maid one night that that was the tightest p \_ \_ \_ y he had ever seen.

13.(D) A woman was leaving to go on a trip, and she asked her little boy to keep an eye out and tell her if he saw anything unusual happening while she was gone.

When she got back, she asked her little boy if anything had happened. He said, "Well, one night I had to get up and go get a glass of water. I happened to see a light on in the maid's room. I peeked in and I saw Daddy in bed with her, and they were. . . ." The mother interrupted saying, "That's all right, stop there, but I want you to repeat the whole story when I ask you tonight at dinner.

That night at dinner, the mother said, "Johnny, tell me what you saw while I was gone on my trip." Johnny said, "Well, one night I had to get up and get a glass of water. I happened to see a light on in the



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maid's room. I peeked in and saw Daddy in bed with her, and they were doing the same thing I saw you and the ice man doing last week.

14.(C) A little boy wondered what went on when his brother left in his car. So, one day, he climbed in between the seats just before his big brother got in the car and drove off. Pretty soon, the big brother saw a girl beside the road, stopped, and asked her if she wanted a ride. She got in and shortly thereafter, the big brother said, "How 'bout a little?" The girl refused, so he stopped and let her out. He repeated this several times with no luck. So, he got discouraged and went home.

The next day the little brother thought he would try his hand at this. He got his wagon and started down the sidewalk. Pretty soon he came to a girl, stopped and asked her if she wanted a ride. She got in and, shortly thereafter he said, "How 'bout a little?" The girl refused, so he stopped and let her out. A little later he saw another girl beside the road, stopped, and asked if she wanted a ride. She got in and shortly thereafter he said, "How 'bout a little?" When she agreed he said, "Oh, my goodness! What am I going to do now?"

15.(F) There was a sailor on a ship, who would bet on anything. No matter how ridiculous the bet was and no matter what the odds were, he always won. The captain of his ship got tired of him and transferred him to another ship. The captain of the first ship warned the captain of the second about this man. The first captain said, "Watch out for this guy. He will bet on any and everything, no matter how silly the bet is, no matter what the odds are, and always win."

The transferred man had been on his new ship a few days when he walked up to the captain and said, "Sir, I'll bet you fifty dollars that you have the piles.

Captain: That's ridiculous. I ought to know if I have the piles or not, and I don't.

Sailor: That's all right. I'll still bet fifty dollars you have the piles.

Captain: Well, I can't lose this. How would you prove it?

Sailor: Well, let me shove this broom handle up your b \_ \_ t, and if it comes out bloody, you have the piles.

Captain: That's fair enough.

They proceeded with the test; there was no blood, and the man lost. Some time later the captain saw the transferred man's first captain and said, "I thought you said this man never lost a bet."

First Captain: I did. Why?

Second Captain: Well, he bet me fifty dollars that I had the piles, when I didn't.

First Captain: How did you prove it?

Second Captain: He shoved a broom handle up my b \_ \_ t, and it came out clean.

First Captain: Why, that g \_ \_ \_ \_ n s \_ \_ of a B \_ \_ \_ h! He bet me \$1000 that within six weeks he'd have a broom handle up your b \_ \_ t.

16. (A) A guy in the Army walked into the shower and saw this other guy in the shower with his soap in his hand beating his d \_ \_ k about ninety per. The first guy says, "Hey, you oughtn't to do that." The second says, "Look, this is my d \_ \_ k and my soap, and I can wash it just as fast as I d \_ \_ n please."

17. (A)(L) One day Eleanor Roosevelt was inspecting a Navy ship when she happened to look down in the hold and saw some men who had a daisy chain going. She called the captain and said, "Captain! I want you to come look here! This is a disgrace!" The captain came over, looked and said, "It sure is, Ma'am. Hey, you men! Make a circle; that guy on the end isn't getting any!"

18. (H)(L) One day Eleanor Roosevelt was inspecting a Navy show hall. She noticed some cookies on the serving counter and wanted to see how the cook made them. She went back into the galley, and there stood the cook wearing nothing but a pair of pants and some shoes. He was not wearing a hat or a shirt, his hair was flopping down, and he was smoking a cigarette.

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Mrs. Roosevelt said, "I'd like to see how you make cookies." The cook rolled out a little piece of cookie dough and slapped it against his belly button, putting a little design on it. Mrs. Roosevelt said, "That's cute. But isn't it rather unsanitary?" The cook said, "Lady, you ought to be here when I make doughnuts."

19.(D) A Texas cowboy went riding up into Oklahoma. One day he passed an Indian teepee and saw an Indian squaw washing clothes in a tub with a scrub board. Her dress was real short, so that every time she scrubbed down, her dress went up leaving her a \_\_ bare. The cowboy thought that he'd just slip up and get some every time she bent over. He went to it; and everytime ~~she bent over~~ he did it, she hollered, "Wahoo!" He didn't know what this meant; but, when he finished, he rode on into town. He went into a pool hall and saw two Indians playing a game. Every now and then one or the other of them would holler, "Wahoo!" The cowboy wandered over and said, "Hey Chief. Tell me, what does, 'Wahoo' mean?" The Indian answered, "Wahoo mean wrong hole."

20.(D) An Indian walked into his tent one day and said to his squaw, "Gettum drum!"

Squaw: "War drum? You makum war?"

Indian: No, condrum. Me wantum piece.

21.(C)(M) A Swedish girl applied for a job as a maid. The woman interviewing her asked if she could speak English. She said, "Ja, I can speak a little." Next the woman asked for her next of kin.

Swede: What?

Woman: Next of kin.

Swede: What's that?

Woman: Kinfolk.

Swede: Ja, I kin folk a little.

The following were collected from Joe Gates on January 11, 1963, without a tape recorder.